

ELECTRICITY

IS THE FOUNTAIN,

THE GREAT VIVIFYING PRINCIPLE OF NATURE;

A SOURCE OF LIFE AND HEALTH:

MEDICINE

THE REQUISITE ACCESSARY TO THAT SCIENCE.

AN ADDRESS

To the Faculty in particular, and to the Public in general, on the subject of *Electricity*, as applicable to the human frame; pointing out the importance and requisite intervention of its power in arresting the progress of Diseases incidental to our nature; and the necessity of its constituting a very essential and leading part of Medical Practice: Designed with a view to the more certain cure and extirpation of Disorders generally, than has hitherto been accomplished: by that means to uphold the art of administering Medicine, as a science susceptible of rendering the most eminently beneficial services to the community, and the rising generation.

BY DUDLEY ADAMS,

PROFESSIONAL MEDICO-ELECTRICIAN,

At No. 42 (the late Mr. Lowndes's), St. Paul's Church Yard, London.

N. B. To be had of the Author, and all Booksellers.

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THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

BY

JOHN BURNET

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

IN TWO VOLUMES

LONDON

Printed by J. Streater, at the Sign of the Gun, in St. Dunstons Church-yard

1679

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ELECTRICITY

*Administered medically, on a newly improved
principle, and more efficaciously than
hitherto practised.*

“ELECTRICITY will probably, *some time*, be considered as the great Vivifying Principle of Nature, by which she carries on most of her operations. It is a *fifth element*, distinct from, and superior to, the other four, which only compose the material part. But this subtle, this Active Fluid, is a *kind of Soul*, that pervades, and quickens, every particle of matter.”

BRYDONE.

MR. ADAMS, in consequence of the most earnest solicitations, *not to retire from the public*, but to embrace the opportunity which presented itself, in the decease of the late Mr. Lowndes, electrician, and the subsequent sale of his apparatus, to adopt the science of medical electricity as a professional avocation; that the advantages arising from the said establishment should not be lost, but be continued for the benefit of the community at large; has the honour to announce, that he effected the purchase of those justly renowned machines, esteemed the grandest, in point of magnitude and power, in Europe; that

he has also purchased the unexpired term of the lease of Mr. L.'s house, and undertaken the conduct of those stupendous articles, for the purpose of administering electricity, according to his new and approved method, on that site where it has been treated successfully by his predecessor for the last thirty-six years.

Mr. Adams, engaging in the same pursuit, requests distinctly to state, for the information of his medical friends, the faculty generally, and the public, that he disclaims all intention of interfering, practically, with the science and art of administering medicine; or in any way so to act, in his profession, as might lead to the charge of empiricism.

The knowledge of which Mr. Adams is possessed, in the branches of science termed—Medical, Philosophical, and Experimental Electricity, is the result of twenty-five years experience in its theory, practice, and the mechanical principles by which this subtle, active, and fifth element operates, has its existence, and should artificially, or by the use and structure of machinery, be produced. Nothing further therefore, touching his information on this highly interesting subject, he humbly conceives, need be adduced.

The sciences of pharmacy, and the application of medicine, are the provinces, and should, in Mr. Adams's opinion, be practically extended only to the regularly educated professional Physician, Surgeon, and Apothecary. The knowledge of drugs and medicine, or pharmacology, and the proper methods of preparing and administering them, with the science of medical electricity, when applied as auxiliaries to each other, in order to expedite or perform cures in the various diseases incident to our nature, it must be admitted, should be placed in distinct hands; either as above named, or with the *PROFESSIONAL MEDICO-ELECTRICIAN*; the appropriate and judicious practice in each science would then, obviously, attain the nearest approximation to perfection that the human mind could suggest or devise; and such sagacious, well digested systems be adopted, that no disorder under providence, however obstinate, if timely considered, would be without its specific remedy. But this degree of excellence, this maximum of science in the use and practice of medicine, precision and certainty, it cannot be denied, is not yet acquired.

That science has not reached its pinnacle, as this brief sketch shall shew, nor indeed,

in Mr. Adams's opinion, ever can, he speaks confidently, unless associated in its operations and effects with the science of electricity, as applicable to the human frame: for the latter is a power, which of itself, without the aid of medicine, enlivens and animates; to quote the respectable author's definition as above cited, "that revivifies and gives soul." In a word, electricity forms a component part of, and constitutes, life; without it, we could not exist. Energized and invigorated by its genial influence, and self-acting principle on our system, and aided by those high and supernatural qualities, we find ourselves, as it were, insensibly restored from indisposition to sound health; in that state, in short, in which the enjoyment of life should, and was intended by the author of our nature to be; free from all the concomitants of disease and pain: our days in consequence extended, or longevity produced.

The inefficacy of medicine in the cure of many disorders, particularly those Mr. Adams has selected, when practised without electricity as its companion, or auxiliary, even when administered by the most consummate in point of medical skill and learning, is constantly presenting itself to our view; is known in every family; requires

scarcely a comment, certainly no elaborate or argumentative treatise, to undeceive the sceptic as to the problematical uncertainty of that art.

It will not be considered a crime, in this enlightened era, to develop to a discerning public, that medicine alone is incompetent to the cure, or to dissolve that spell, the scourge of youth, so peculiar to the climate of England, from the variable state of the weather, the use of pit coal, &c. designated by the name of consumption; or, in other words, the consumer of life in all its youth and beauty; the peripneumonia, increased and increasing inflammation of the lungs, to arrest the formation of pus, and morbid matter, mortification, &c. and afford new life. The scrofula, scirrhus, king's evil; glandular and strumous affections; cutaneous diseases, bilious habits, and sallow complexions; to remove the bronchocele, or Derbyshire neck; the goitre or wen of the Pays du Valais, which Mr. Adams has so often witnessed during a residence of two years at Geneva, and in its environs; the *Noli me Tangere*, a disorder not universally known among the faculty, and much less its cure; obstructions generally in their vast and comprehensive sphere; inert

and defective circulation of the blood, and finer fluids; chilblains, rheumatism, sciatica, lumbago; contractions of the limbs, and joints of the fingers and toes; the gout, the palsy, whether partial or confirmed; insanity, in all its dreadful and most distressing stages; melancholy, when produced by a redundance of black bile; St. Vitus's dance; prostration of strength; asthmas; dropsy; water in the chest; ditto, and pressure on the brain; indigestion and oppression of languor, and wind; the generally relaxed fibre; cases of suspended animation, as drowning, suffocation, and the like; those of apparent blindness, cataract, the gutta serena, inflamed and sore eyes; deafness; ringing noises in the head; loss of speech, stammering, and all the various degrees of that sad visitation; privation of taste, smell, and tact; in a word, a deficiency of animation, or of electricity, in the system; with many serious and afflicting diseases produced by that and other causes, by far too numerous for insertion here. But when the science of preparing medicine, and the skill of the medical practitioner, in the application thereof to diseases, are combined with judicious and experienced medico-electrical treatment, as admi-

nistered by Mr. Adams, without shock, spark, or in any way to cause the least intimidation to the most sensitive and delicate nerves; the list of diseases enumerated, nay the whole table of complaints generally, are known, not only to Mr. Adams, but to many gentlemen who have honoured him with their confidence, to give way, in most instances, to their united influence.

In a liberal union of the powers of medicine with those of electricity, when each science is applied professionally, the most irrefragable proofs and testimonies may be given of perfect cures having been performed in diseases which, when not jointly considered, and but separately acted upon by the professor of either science, must have failed of success, and proved fatal to the suffering and afflicted. Thus valuable lives would have been lost to society, the possessors of which have filled distinguished situations, been a credit to themselves, and ornaments to their country.

Mr. Adams, therefore, respectfully invites the faculty liberally, with more freedom than hitherto, to associate the efforts and energies of their practice with his, and the approved medico-electrician

generally; in order that diseases may be treated more successfully, and with a greater degree of certainty in their cures, than has been effected up to this period. He could dilate much on the propriety of such a course being immediately and confidently adopted, with due regard to justice, and science; but an argument so lengthened and extended, would exceed the limits of this paper; his principal intention wherein being to announce to the erudite, and others possessing capacious minds, facts that are incontrovertible, and which will develop themselves in less than one revolving year. He will confine himself to a few objects, and for the present observe, that electricity, as applicable to the human frame (very properly termed medical electricity) exercised, for instance, in the removal of obstructions, of whatever nature and description, has not been sufficiently practised, nor so maturely considered, as to be of the utmost benefit to the community, of which Mr. Adams is fully persuaded it is susceptible.

Cases of obstruction peculiarly and almost exclusively belong, in their removal, to the science of electricity; and as it is well known that they are the principal and leading causes of most

disorders ; surely then, a free administration of medical electricity should co-operate, and go hand in hand, with the practice of medicine, in order to uphold and maintain the rank of the latter art as a science !

Mr. Adams feels no difficulty in observing, for the purpose of general information (not confining his remarks wholly to the faculty), that the electrical practice in cases produced by obstructions, with a view speedily to remove them and relieve the patient, should be that of charging the whole frame, both internally and externally, in a condensed and high degree with this invisible yet powerful agent, so essential to life and health ; retaining the subtile fluid within the system generally, (extracting it only locally) for an extended time, according to the judgment of the medico-electrical professor, and as the nature of the complaint shall demand. Thus the deficiency of energy, or electricity, would be supplied, and the equilibrium of nature be restored ; the pores unclosed, the ducts, secretory and absorbent vessels, acquire their true functions ; the blood and finer fluids flow spontaneously into their proper channels ; and the application of medicine, with such

an auxiliary, be simple, certain, and, generally speaking, more efficacious than heretofore.

A late eminent physician, Dr. Willich, in his *Encyclopedia*, a work of some celebrity, observes, “When the vital principle is in a manner extinguished; it may again be kindled, or excited, by the power of electricity.” He adds, it promotes a free circulation of the fluids, and particularly the blood; increases animal heat, perspiration, as well as all the secretions and excretions of the body; thus the electric *Bath*, and the gentle application of sparks to any particular part, are equally safe and advantageous. He continues to state, that dropsy, paralysis, head and tooth aches, however obstinate and violent, yield to its influence; as also cramp, gout, and rheumatic pains, palsy, and sometimes even epilepsy; and that instances are on record, of resuscitation being effected by electricity, in persons whose vital functions were destroyed by drowning.

Mr. Adams having in candour given his opinion, corroborated, herein, by those of Brydone, and Willich, respecting the high and important necessity of electricity being made to constitute a very essential part of the practice of the phy-

sician, surgeon, and apothecary, in the cure and extirpation of diseases generally; that the art of administering medicine should thereby be maintained in its true rank; capable, as it is, of producing the most useful and beneficial consequences to the present and future generations; is desirous at present only to add, that all classes, from the prince to the cottager and mechanic, may be assured of receiving, at his institution, the most attentively circumspective medico-electrical treatment; being of opinion, confirmed in a practice grounded on twenty-five years experience and upwards, that electricity *is yet in its infancy*, as to its utility and utmost efficaciousness; that shocks and sparks, administered locally according to the usual practice, are frequently injudicious methods of applying this restorer of new action, and life. The most advanced in years, therefore, as well as the infant in arms, the peculiarly delicate, the nervous, relaxed, and debilitated, may place themselves under Mr. Adams's professional care, with the fullest confidence as to mildness of treatment, and successful cure. To describe the sensation caused, it is only necessary to state, that it is a cool, soft, and refreshing air, com-

municated to the whole body at once, either seated, or walking, in the interior of a *BATH*, prepared for the occasion, and ready at all times, during the hours appointed for attendance. It may be proper to mention, that the fluid in which the patient is to be immersed, being, this fifth element, or electricity, no article of the customary apparel need, be removed.

Thus will the repressed organs be revived, and manna, as it were, or food of the mildest yet most energetic nature, be conveyed to the centre of action; the *primum mobile*, or main spring of life; adding at once to health and years.

A clear idea of the effects of electricity on the human frame, when judiciously applied, cannot perhaps be better expressed, than by a patient in his own words. He was totally deprived of the use of his limbs; attacked by spasms, accompanied with all the symptoms of St. Vitus's Dance; the involuntary motions attended with extreme pain, &c. He observed, when saturated or charged throughout with electricity, "that he felt a kind of power take possession of his frame, or pervade his whole system, which was unknown to him before." He now walks as well as any other person, without the aid of crutch or stick.

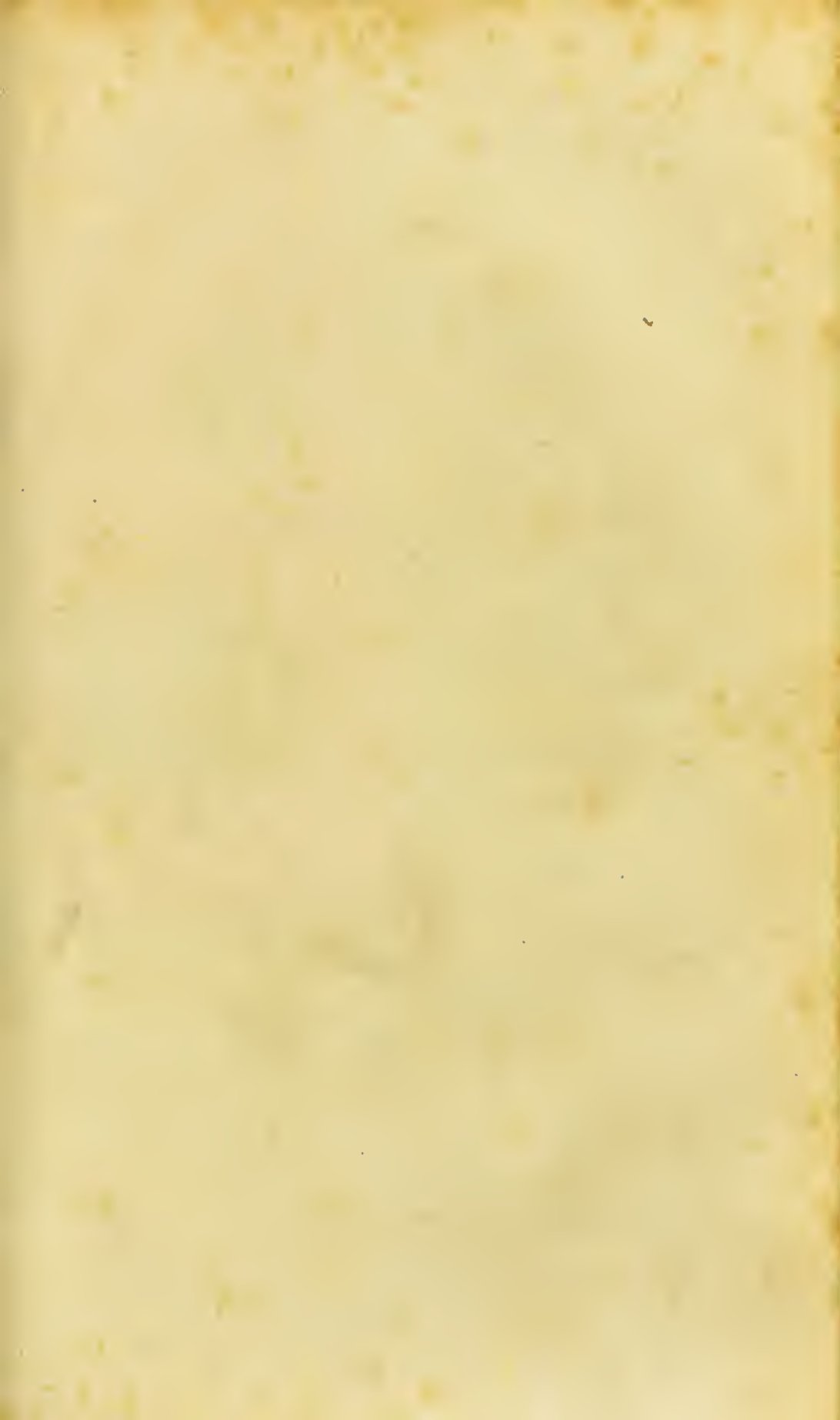
Another gentleman freely acknowledges, that electricity has kept him alive the last twenty years, &c. &c. &c. Numerous, indeed, are the cases, the perfect cures of which have been performed by Mr. Adams, according to his new method; but as he disapproves the publication of them, they can only, with due regard to respectability and strict decorum, be glanced at generally, in a manner similar to those above cited.

Galvanism and magnetism, systems of electricity also, though possessing different properties, are assimilated, having each an attractive power; on which much may be advanced. These, in their due order, will be administered, and adapted to various cases requiring the aid of their influence, either separately or united.

42, St. Paul's Church Yard.

March 1820.

N. B. Attendance will be given by Mr. Adams, in person, from twelve till four, Sundays excepted.



Figures.

